

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Final Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1956-57.

Seasonal Conditions. The average rainfall over the agricultural areas for the crop growing period April - November was 18.55 inches compared with the mean of 12.43 inches for the previous 51 years and is the highest on record, the previous highest being 17.97 inches in 1916. The wheat average per acre during each of the last 10 seasons has exceeded the mean yield of 11.57 bushels of the last 52 years, but only in 6 of those 10 seasons has the rainfall exceeded the 52 years mean. For the 10 seasons as a whole, the average of 19.12 bushels of wheat per acre has been obtained from an average rainfall of 13.81 inches. During the previous 42 seasons, the respective figures were - wheat 10.67 bushels per acre and rainfall 12.21 inches.

Generally speaking harvesting conditions were good and actual yields were above expectations. The yield of wheat is 31,431,547 bushels compared with the January estimate of 29,500,000; barley 34,002,876 compared with 32,500,000; oats 8,318,296 compared with 8,100,000 and field peas 632,795 compared with 630,000 bushels.

The total yield of wheat, barley and oats combined was 73,752,719 bushels from 3,087,218 acres and exceeded the previous record combined yield of 66,486,793 bushels from 2,850,633 acres in 1952/53.

In 1953-54, the combined yield of barley and oats exceeded that of wheat for the first time, and it did so again for 1955-56, and 1956-57.

NOTE:- The 1956-57 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1955-56 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 31,431,547 (28,891,524) bushels averaged 21.85 (17.96) bushels per acre from an area of 1,438,289 (1,609,029) acres including any areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,480,676 (1,678,298) acres. The average wheat yield of 21.85 bushels was slightly lower than the previous record of 21.97 bushels in 1952-53.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 910,646 acres of wheat produced 21,959,434 bushels averaging 24.11 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 527,643 acres with 9,472,113 bushels averaging 17.95 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 19.25 bushels on fallow land and 15.35 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 34,002,876 (24,597,979) bushels and the average per acre was 27.83 (23.61). 32,393,026 bushels were reported to be 2 row and 1,609,850 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 1,221,737 (1,041,806) and for all purposes 1,248,648 (1,067,661). The areas, yields and average per acre were records.

OATS:- The yield totalled 8,318,296 (7,280,340) bushels and the average per acre was 19.47 (17.13). The acreage for grain was 427,192 (425,026) acres and for all purposes 843,481 (841,936). The areas, yields and average per acre were all records.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March, 1957. For seed - wheat 1,686,884, Barley 1,520,673 and Oats 979,818 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 872,776, Barley 995,633, Oats 2,281,473 bushels, and Hay and Chaff 219,152 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1956-57 it was reported that 1,556,331 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 661,411 bushels for feed.

RYE:- For 1956-57 there were 52,777 (45,350) acres under rye of which 41,871 (37,418) acres were for grain yielding 251,793 (193,330) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 632,795 (584,320) bushels from 30,496 (34,298) acres. 4,144 acres of field peas were fed off. Approximately 50,000 acres was intended to be sown for 1957-58.

HAY:- 298,794 (325,673) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 36,618 (61,524) and oaten 107,725 (139,325) acres. The total yield was 453,270 (460,821) tons, wheaten being 60,914 (91,422) and oaten 160,520 (191,767). Average tons per acre were 1.52 (1.41).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1957-58, representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the autumn. It has been reported by the Department of Agriculture that the late "break" in the season will not seriously affect cereal acreages. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats have been showing a slight upward movement in recent years.

Season		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
1930-31	Acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1943-44	"	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1952-53	"	1,601,438	953,572	699,750	3,254,760
1953-54	"	1,603,914	1,144,397	700,325	3,448,636
1954-55	"	1,766,539	1,057,818	767,581	3,591,938
1955-56	"	1,678,298	1,067,661	841,936	3,537,895
1956-57	"	1,480,676	1,248,648	843,481	3,572,805
1957-58	"	1,500,758	1,324,776	1,016,651	3,842,185

Prior to 1952-53, the total area under wheat for all purposes exceeded, the combined areas of barley and oats, but from 1952-53 onwards the combined barley and oats areas have exceeded that for wheat.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1956-57 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1956-57 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

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19th September, 1957.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1956-57.

Divisions	Total Cereals, Peas, Hay & Green Fodder	AREA FOR GRAIN			Hay Total	Green Fodder
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	859,650	231,681	380,639	55,927	122,103	49,827
Lower North	829,567	363,350	254,419	83,544	60,358	57,078
Upper North	149,785	93,832	25,678	13,727	12,066	3,996
South Eastern	125,826	18,937	23,449	26,984	43,437	12,329
Western	1,142,388	487,439	244,912	184,648	25,895	197,453
Murray Mallee	718,278	243,050	292,640	62,362	34,935	46,432
Total 1956/57	3,825,494	1,438,289	1,221,737	427,192	298,794	367,115
Total 1955/56	3,812,411	1,609,029	1,041,806	425,026	325,673	339,161
Increase	13,083	- 170,740	179,931	2,166	- 26,879	27,954

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Division	GRAIN						Hay Total Tons	
	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS			
	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.		
Central	5,918,569	25.55	13,142,757	34.53	1,385,181	24.77	191,717	
Lower North	10,583,322	29.13	8,965,314	35.24	2,447,310	29.29	93,874	
Upper North	2,498,235	26.62	761,803	29.67	439,773	32.04	19,366	
South Eastern	317,734	16.78	463,901	19.78	451,761	16.74	74,477	
Western	8,297,508	17.02	4,612,396	18.83	2,760,570	14.95	30,935	
Murray Mallee	3,816,179	15.70	6,056,705	20.70	833,701	13.37	42,901	
Total 1956/57	31,431,547	21.85	34,002,876	27.83	8,318,296	19.47	453,270	
Total 1955/56	28,891,524	17.96	24,597,979	23.61	7,280,340	17.13	460,821	
Increase	2,540,023	3.89	9,404,897	4.22	1,037,956	2.34	- 7,551	

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY		OATS
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre		Inches	Bush.	
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.				
1951-52	1,613,126	27,300,839	16.92	16.10	16,825,996	5,404,927	
1952-53	1,543,762	33,918,689	21.97	15.19	25,901,684	6,666,420	
1953-54	1,528,377	30,409,231	19.90	12.62	28,491,293	4,320,758	
1954-55	1,689,103	31,462,737	18.63	10.85	18,376,283	4,508,117	
1955-56	1,609,029	28,891,524	17.96	15.77	24,597,979	7,280,340	
Mean	1,596,679	30,396,604	19.04	14.11	22,838,647	5,636,112	
1956-57	1,438,289	31,431,547	21.85	18.55	34,002,876	8,318,296	

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